



5904 Devonshire Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20816
240.461.7816

November 30, 2018

Via ECFS – Notice of Ex Parte Communications

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 07-135, and CC
Docket No. 01-92**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 29, 2018, Ken Pfister of Great Plains Communications, Wendy Thompson Fast of Consolidated Companies (collectively, Nebraska A-CAM Companies), and I met separately with Commissioner Brendan Carr and his Chief of Staff, Jamie Susskind, and with Preston Wise, Office of Chairman Ajit Pai, regarding the draft order in the above-referenced docket that is scheduled to be voted at the December agenda meeting.¹

During the meeting, the Nebraska A-CAM Companies expressed their full support for adoption of a voluntary offer of additional funding up to \$200/month per location for existing A-CAM recipients, with modified deployment obligations, as set forth in the draft order. They also indicated that they support extending a new offer of A-CAM support to all companies not currently receiving A-CAM support and would not limit such an offer to those companies that would receive less support under the model than their current support. Extending a new offer of A-CAM support to all companies, for high-cost areas that are not competitively served, would result in significantly more broadband deployment and advance the Commission's longstanding public policy objective of providing universal service support based on forward-looking efficient costs. They expressed their appreciation for the establishment of separate budgets for A-CAM companies and companies that are not receiving A-CAM support.

In addition, they discussed the status of current proceedings before the Nebraska Public Service Commission to determine support levels provided to rate-of-return carriers through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to advance a state goal of 25/3 Mbps broadband.

¹ *Connect America Fund*, Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC-CIRC1812-02 (Public Draft Nov. 21, 2018).

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if there are questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Carol E. Matthey
Principal
Matthey Consulting, LLC

cc: Commissioner Brendan Carr
Jamie Susskind
Preston Wise